

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A catheter ~~assemble~~ assembly comprising:

a diagnostic therapeutic catheter formed into a flexible tubular configuration, said
diagnostic-therapeutic catheter including a distal end portion having an inner surface, and

a³ an introducing catheter which is concentrically accommodated into said
diagnostic-therapeutic catheter, ~~the catheter assemble further comprising: said~~
introducing catheter including a shaft portion and a distal portion of said introducing
~~catheter~~ having:

a cone-shaped section,

a taper-terminated ~~portion~~ section,

a quasi-linear ~~portion~~ section having an outer surface tightly
engaging without a gap or clearance said inner surface of said distal end portion
of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter, a linear-terminated portion and

a stepped portion, ~~either of which substantially engages tightly with a~~
~~distal portion of said diagnostic catheter without a gap or clearance;~~

wherein and an annular space provided between a is defined between the shaft
portion of said introducing catheter and of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter and said
~~introducing catheter~~ except for the distal portion of said shaft portion.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 1, in which said annular space is formed between inner and outer tubes concentrically provided to extend from a proximal end portion to said distal end of said shaft portion of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter, said annular space having a drug-releasable open end at least partially exposed to an outer surface of said shaft portion, and said outer tube having a plurality of drug-releasable side holes.

a³ Claim 3 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 2, in which said inner and outer tubes are formed by synthetic resin, and said inner tube is reinforced by a braided metallic wire work built in an area at least except for a distal portion of said inner tube.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 2, in which at least a part of said inner and outer tubes are formed by a metallic pipe.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 2, in which a helical, linear or curved groove is formed on either an outer surface of said inner tube or an inner surface of said outer tube, or both of them.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 1, in which said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter has a plurality of drug-releasable side holes.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 1, in which a distal end of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter has a bight portion, a distal end of which has an inner edge, a quarter or less of circumferential length of said inner edge being rounded rearward.

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Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 2, in which a distal end of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter has a bight portion, a distal end of which has an inner edge, a quarter or less of circumferential legnth of said inner edge being rounded rearward.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 2, in which a distal end of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter has a bight portion, a distal end of which has an inner edge, a quarter or less of circumferential legnth of said inner edge being rounded rearward.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 4, in which a distal end of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter has a bight portion, a distal end of which has an inner edge, a quarter or less of circumferential legnth of said inner edge being rounded rearward.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 5, in which a distal end of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter has a bight portion, a distal end of which has an inner edge, a quarter or less of circumferential legnth of said inner edge being rounded rearward.

Q³ Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 6, in which a distal end of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter has a bight portion, a distal end of which has an inner edge, a quarter or less of circumferential legnth of said inner edge being rounded rearward.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 1, in which said distal portion of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter is formed into a cone-shaped configuration in a fashion to taper off toward a distal end of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 2, in which said distal portion of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter is formed into a cone-shaped configuration in a fashion to taper off toward a distal end of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 6, in which said distal portion of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter is formed into a cone-shaped configuration in a fashion to taper off toward a distal end of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 1, in which said distal portion of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter is D25 ~ D63 in terms of Shore hardness.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 2, in which said distal portion of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter is D25 ~ D63 in terms of Shore hardness.

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Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 6, in which said distal portion of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter is D25 ~ D63 in terms of Shore hardness.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 7, in which said distal portion of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter is D25 ~ D63 in terms of Shore hardness.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 1, in which an outer surface of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter is coated with a hydrophilic polymer.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 2, in which an outer surface of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter is coated with a hydrophilic polymer.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 6, in which an outer surface of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter is coated with hydrophilic polymer.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 7, in which an outer surface of said diagnostic-therapeutic catheter is coated with a hydrophilic polymer.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): Catheter assemble according to claim 1, in which said distal portion of said introducing catheter has a maximum diameter at its front end and a cone-shaped portion connected to said linear portion to be tapered off toward said front end, and forming a stepped portion at a linear-terminated portion, a linear area of said shaft portion having a stepped portion at a predetermined distance from said linear-terminated portion, said distal portion further having a diameter-reduced lean portion from said stepped portion to a proximal end with an equi-diameter thickness through an entire length of said proximal end.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 2, in which said disatal portion of said introducing catheter has a maximum diameter at its front end and a cone-shaped portion connected to said linear portion to be tapered off toward said front end, and forming a stepped portion at a linear-terminated portion, a linear area of said shaft portion having a stepped portion at a predetermined distance from said linear-terminated portion, said distal portion further having a diameter-reduced lean portion from said stepped portion to a proximal end with an equi-diameter thickness through an entire length of said proximal end.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): A catheter assemble according to claim 6, in which said distal end portion of said introducing catheter has a maximum diameter at its front end and a cone-shaped portion connected to said linear portion connected to said linear portion to be tapered off toward said front end, and forming a stepped portion at a linear-terminated portion, a linear area of said shaft portion having a stepped portion at a predetermined distance from said linear-terminated portion, said distal portion further having a diameter-reduced lean portion from said stepped portion to a proximal end with an equi-diameter thickness through an entire length of said proximal end.

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Claim 27 (New): A catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said cone-shaped section is tapered off within a range of 5-30° toward a front end of said shaft portion.

Claim 28 (New): A catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said shaft portion of said introducing catheter comprises a thin tubular configuration.

Claim 29 (New): A catheter assembly according to claim 28, wherein said shaft portion of said introducing catheter comprises a synthetic resin.

Claim 30 (New): A catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said shaft portion of said introducing catheter comprises a synthetic resin.